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Check it out: new library is sure thing

Town gets necessary \$2.1 million state grant

By Kurt W. Blumenau
MPG Newspapers

DUXBURY — The Duxbury Free Library cleared its two biggest hurdles in perfect stride last week.

Two days after trustees chose acting director Joanne Lamothe as the library's full-time director, the state board of library commissioners awarded Dux-

bury a \$2.1 million grant.

The grant, the third-largest given by the board, ensures that the Upper Alden library project will become a reality.

"We were very relieved, followed by a great sense of elation," said Lamothe, who attended the commissioners' meeting in Framingham Thursday with board of trustees chairman Jane Bradley and Alden library project president Deborah Bornheimer.

"It was thrilling — very exciting for us," Bradley added.

According to a statement is-

sued by the commissioners, a total of \$25 million was awarded to 28 towns. Only Boston, at \$7 million, and Milton, at \$2.8 million, received more money than Duxbury's \$2,127,801.

Some 71 libraries originally applied for grants, according to the statement.

"I don't think I knew until I got to Framingham how competitive the grants were," Bradley said. "This was not a foregone conclusion."

"There were a lot of disappointed libraries," Lamothe said.

Lamothe and Bradley said the library will now step up fundraising efforts. Annual town meeting in March approved borrowing \$3 million for the expected \$6.3 million cost of the library project. Library trustees said they would cover the rest of the cost through grants and fundraising. With a total of \$2.3 million in approved grants, the library needs to raise about \$1 million to fully fund the expected cost. Upcoming events include benefit concerts and a book festival.

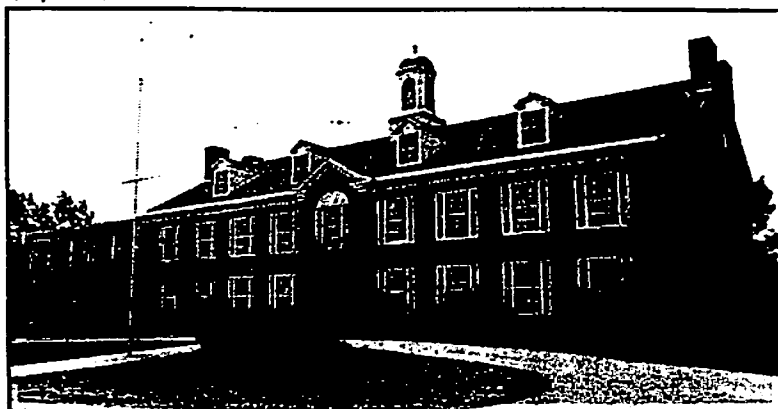
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Staff photo/Kurt Blumenau

Wished well — A sign outside the library announces the good news.

File #



Staff photo/Kurt Blumenau

Home for sure — The entire library project to renovate and move to the Upper Alden School building hinged on the grant received last week.

■ New library

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Lamothe said the library is also finalizing design details to prepare the project for bids.

"We're still optimistic for a December 1996 occupancy," she said.

Lamothe was selected as the library's new director at a board of trustees meeting Tuesday morning. According to board chairman Jane Bradley, Lamothe's work as acting director during the past year was the primary reason she was chosen.

"We know what she can do, and what she's done in the last year has far exceeded what we'd expected," Bradley said. "She's brought warmth to the position."

Bradley said the choice was a

difficult one because both Lamothe and the other candidate for the position, Middleborough library director Marjorie Judd, were highly qualified.

"It was a tough decision because they were both so good," she added.

Lamothe said she is "pleased and excited" about the decision, as well as the future of the library.

"We should have a lot of work to do, both on the design of the building and fundraising," she said.

Lamothe said she also hopes to start instruction classes on the Internet. While the acting director, the library installed two public-access computer terminals.